

CAPSULE SUMMARY
Humphreys Hall (AA-676)
St. John's College, Annapolis

Humphreys Hall at St. John's College was begun in 1835 and completed in 1837 by builder Elijah Wells to the designs of prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr. Named in honor of college principal Reverend Hector Humphreys, the building was initially constructed as a dormitory and boarding house. The Gothic Revival style dormitory was the second building constructed on the campus of St. John's College, and the first to be erected by the academic institution. In the middle part of the 20th century, the building was considered too antiquated for use as a dormitory, and was rehabilitated to serve as the Science Building. Under the direction of architect C. Frederick Houston, the building was returned to its original use as a dormitory in 1958, when Baltimore Contractors, Inc. renovated the interior.

Rectangular in plan, the building measures 35' x 70', is six bays long and rises three full stories above a raised basement. The building is laid in five-course American bond brick and sits upon a raised stone (granite) foundation with a molded brick watertable. It is covered with a gable roof, clad with shingles, and features 8/8 wood replacement windows, and reproductions cement spandrels and cement window trim throughout the building. Humphreys Hall is characterized by its fortified Medieval appearance, including octagonal towers at its four corners, double-height windows with spandrels and continuous drip molds, and brick buttressing on the side walls. Originally, the building was further enhanced stylistically by buttress caps that rose well above the buildings' roofline. These have since been capped off at the cornice. A pronounced Gothic-revival-style wood entry porch sheltering the southeast gable end of the building also historically enhanced the building. This porch, probably removed in 1958, was square in plan and featured pointed-arched openings with label molds on its three exterior walls, a crenellated parapet roof, and buttress towers flanking the principal entry.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. AA-676

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Humphreys Hall, St. John's College

other

2. Location

street and number College Street not for publication

city, town Annapolis vicinity

county Anne Arundel

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. John's College

street and number 60 College Avenue, Box 2800

telephone 410/263-2371

city, town Annapolis state MD zip code 21404

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Anne Arundel County Courthouse

tax map and parcel

city, town Annapolis liber folio

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☒ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☒ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education		objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			1	

7. Description

Inventory No. AA-676

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one-paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Humphreys Hall dormitory was constructed in 1835-1837 as the first purpose-built structure at St. John's College.¹ Located just southwest of the older Georgian-era McDowell Hall, it is an imposing brick structure designed in a castellated Gothic Revival style by Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. Rectangular in plan, the building measures 35' x 70', is six bays long and rises three full stories above a raised basement. The building is laid in five-course American bond brick and sits upon a raised stone (granite) foundation with a molded brick watertable. It is covered with a gable roof, clad with shingles, and features 8/8 wood replacement windows, and reproductions cement spandrels and cement window trim throughout the building.

Humphreys Hall is characterized by its fortified Medieval appearance, including octagonal towers at its four corners, double-height windows with spandrels and continuous drip molds, and brick buttressing on the side walls. Originally, the building was further enhanced stylistically by buttress caps that rose well above the buildings' roofline. These have since been capped off at the cornice. A pronounced Gothic-revival-style wood entry porch sheltering the southeast gable end of the building also historically enhanced the building. This porch, probably removed in 1958, was square in plan and featured pointed-arched openings with label molds on its three exterior walls, a crenellated parapet roof, and buttress towers flanking the principal entry.

The building has been altered several times throughout its history, and significantly renovated in 1958, leaving little of the original interior intact, and few of the original exterior materials in situ. Much of the original brickwork has been re-worked and re-pointed

Exterior Description:

The southeast gable end elevation was originally identified as the front elevation by the Gothic Revival-style wood entry porch, which was removed in 1958. Today, this front elevation, buttressed on either end by the corner towers, is divided into three principal bays with staggered openings spanning the three interior floor levels. The entrance, located on center at the ground (first floor) level, is flanked by two long and narrow openings with banded spandrels that span the first two floors.² Balancing this staggered effect is a central window, also with a banded spandrel and located above the entry, spanning the second and third stories. This square-headed window is set within a recessed pointed-arch brick panel and features a pointed-arch drip mold with label stops. The entry door features a wood door with cross bracing and an eight-light transom. A panel with cross bracing surmounts the doorway. The double height windows to either side feature 8/8 sash in both the upper and lower halves, with a spandrel with cross bracing separating the two openings. Square-headed hood molding with drip molds tops the square-headed windows. The central window spanning the second and third stories is more prominent given its pointed-arch hood molding and recessed panel, but is shorter than the windows to either side. The lower half features a similar-sized 8/8 window, while the upper half holds a smaller, square opening, though still configured with 8/8 sash. A smaller spandrel with cross bracing separates the top and bottom window sash. To either side of this central window are uninscribed or adorned concrete

¹The cornerstone was laid in 1835; the building was completed in 1837.

² All of the spandrels and window trim throughout the building are 1958 reproductions in concrete of the original wood features.

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(reproduction) bas-reliefs in the form of Medieval shields. A raking cornice board delineates the gable roofline of this principal end wall, while the corner towers rise above the roof's edge.

The northwest end elevation differs from the entry facade in its more symmetrical and austere arrangement of windows. This elevation rises a full four stories, as the raised stone basement is fully exposed here, and is divided into three equal bays. The basement level of random, rough-cut stone features a central entry and flanking windows. The central entry has a wood and glass replacement door set within a rectangular opening with a large, stone lintel above. The windows, 8/8 to either side, similarly feature solid stone lintels. The first and second stories of this wall are articulated with three double-height windows, separated by wooden spandrels with cross bracing. The windows on both levels have 8/8 sash. Splayed brick lintels form the head of the square-headed openings while square hood moldings with drip molds provide the Gothic ornament. The third floor features three smaller, square window openings, also with 8/8 sash and square-headed hood molds. A round oculus window pierces the attic level of the gable end, while the octagonal towers rise above it to either side.

The northeast elevation facing McDowell Hall is six bays long, whereby each bay is separated by 12" x 16" brick buttresses recalling ecclesiastical architecture, and defined by double-height 8/8 windows with spandrels spanning the first and second stories. The square-headed drip molds double visually as a stringcourse, though interrupted by the brick buttresses. The third story features smaller, square 8/8 windows similarly with square-headed drip molds. The basement level of the building, articulated by the raised stone foundation, is accessed on this elevation by an English basement-type entry that leads into the college bookstore. Each of the six bays of the basement level are separated by the buttresses (stone at this level), while four of the six are lit by 8/8 windows with splayed brick lintels. No window is located in the third bay from the eastern end, as it is equipped with a door leading to the bookstore. Similarly, the fifth bay has no window in the basement level as a first story door which leads into the dormitory extends below the raised water table. Both of these doors are wood with cross bracing and eight-lights in the upper level. To either side of the door leading into the dormitory, the molded brick watertable has been replaced with new brick. Again, the octagonal corner towers buttress the ends of the elevation and rise above the roofline.

The southwest elevation is similar to the northeast elevation, though here there is no entry into either the basement or first floor levels. The raised foundation level has 8/8 windows with metal grates and stone lintels in each of the six bays, while double-height windows define the six bays of the first and second stories. The third story features square windows. All of these windows are articulated with splayed brick lintels, window hoods and drip molds found on the other elevations. Finally, the corner towers once again define the edges of the long fortress-like wall.

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Interior Description:

Humphreys Hall is laid out with a central hall extending the length of the building and individual dorm rooms located to either side. Two stairwells, one at the southeast end of the building, and the other on the northeast side wall, provide access to the dormitory rooms on the first, second and third floors. Two other doors, one on the northeast side wall and the northwest end wall, provide access to the College bookstore and the package room, respectively. In 1958, Humphreys Hall was entirely gutted on the interior, leaving only the original floor joists intact. Today, the interior consists of vinyl-tiled floors, dropped acoustical tiled ceilings, metal stairwells, contemporary bathroom fixtures, and aluminum replacement sash. The interior of the college bookstore in the building's below grade level reveals an original load bearing brick wall with large round-arched openings that extend the length of the room, and presumably, the length of the building.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Significance dates	1835-circa 1954	Architect	Robert Cary Long, Jr.
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Specific dates	1835-1837, circa 1954, 1958	Builder	Elijah Wells
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Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Humphreys Hall at St. John's College was begun in 1835 and completed in 1837 by builder Elijah Wells to the designs of prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, Jr. Named in honor of college principal Reverend Hector Humphreys, the building was initially constructed as a dormitory and boarding house. The Gothic Revival style dormitory was the second building constructed on the campus of St. John's College, and the first to be erected by the academic institution. In the middle part of the 20th century, the building was considered too antiquated for use as a dormitory, and was rehabilitated to serve as the Science Building. Under the direction of architect C. Frederick Houston, the building was returned to its original use as a dormitory in 1958, when Baltimore Contractors, Inc. renovated the interior.

*For a detailed history of St. John's College, refer to Maryland Historical Inventory Form, McDowell Hall (AA-675).

History of Humphreys Hall

Originally encompassing four acres, the property on which Humphreys Hall stands was chosen by then governor Thomas Bladen as the future location of a governor's mansion. The construction of a prominent dwelling began in 1742, but was disrupted by a lack of funding. By 1784, the unfinished house and its surrounding four acres were granted by the provincial government as the future site of St. John's College. The all-male college, chartered in 1784, completed the construction of the building. The prominent Georgian style brick building was the only structure on the original campus until 1837, when Humphreys Hall was constructed.

The Board of Rector, Visitors, and Governors of St. John's College realized that its professors had always been underpaid, and, although plagued by financial difficulties, made every attempt in the second quarter of the 19th century to correct the discrepancy. Yet, the college owned and occupied just a single building, McDowell Hall, which provided classrooms, administration offices, a kitchen, dining room, and limited housing. In fact, the financial difficulties and overcrowding in McDowell Hall had forced the college to discontinue on-campus housing for out-of-town students, who were forced to rent rooms in the town of Annapolis. Thus, on June 30, 1832, a committee was appointed to investigate the needs and financial future of the growing college. The committee recommended an on-campus boardinghouse. The committee indicated a boardinghouse was essential, "first of all, because all colleges of reputation have such things. When St. Johns' had had a

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boardinghouse, its reputation was at its highest...."³ Tench Francis Tilghman wrote in *The Early History of St. John's College in Annapolis* that the committee continued their argument by stating that "most important of all, a boardinghouse was conducive to morality because the students would always be under the watchful eye of a professor. The families outside Annapolis would not be afraid to send their sons to St. John's, which, the board feared, they now hesitated to do."⁴ The substantial number of morality complaints and investigations undertaken by the board and faculty in the early 1830s supported the committee's desire for adult supervision and on-campus housing.

The board was so anxious to build a boardinghouse that they contemplated selling some of the Farmers Bank stock the college owned in order to raise the \$10,000 believed necessary. Ultimately, however, college principal, Hector Humphreys, was sent statewide to collect private subscriptions in 1834. The campaign boasted that "anyone who gave fifty dollars could send a student to the college for a year free"⁵ Serving as principal from 1831 to 1857, Humphreys was given authority over the design of the boardinghouse, as long as the construction costs did not exceed \$10,000. In February 1835, \$9,000 has been subscribed to the project, with another \$2,000 pledge by April. The site chosen for the new building was located to the immediate southwest of McDowell Hall. The records of the board in 1835 document that the building was to be "a commodious edifice eighty feet by forty feet, three stories in height above the basement..."⁶ Judge John Stephen of the Court of Appeals, a former member of the board, laid the cornerstone on June 16, 1835. John Johnson, a member of the board, delivered the principal address at the ceremony. An account published by printer Jeremiah Hughes in 1835 described the building at the time of the cornerstone ceremony:

The foundation walls are built of stone, in the most substantial manner, furnishing one large and convenient public room, in the basement story, in addition to a kitchen, cellars, etc. of sufficient size for a public establishment. The walls above the basement, are of brick, with partitions of the same material, and will contain twenty-five separate rooms, for the accommodation of fifty students, besides rooms for the family of a Professor of the College. The cornerstone was cut from a single block of granite, in the form of an Octagon, four feet across, corresponding with the form and dimensions of the angular buttresses.⁷

Prominent Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. was retained to design the building, and Elijah Wells was responsible for its construction. The high style Gothic Revival building, said to be one of the oldest collegiate

³ Tench Francis Tilghman. *The Early History of St. John's College*. (Annapolis, MD: St. John's College Press, 1984), p. 66.

⁴ Tilghman, p. 66.

⁵ Tilghman, p. 69.

⁶ Historic American Building Survey, "Humphrey Hall," Blue Worksheet, Prepared by Florence T. Dunbar, October 1964.

⁷ Jeremiah Hughes, "An Account of the Ceremony of Laying the Cornerstone of the New Building at St. John's College," Archives of St. John's College.

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buildings displaying this fashionable mode of architecture, was completed by September 1837.⁸ The boardinghouse was home to students of the preparatory school as well as the college students. The library, previously located in the dome room of McDowell Hall, was moved to the new boardinghouse. Tilghman quoted Humphreys' description of the new space to the board:

The Principal respectfully reports that Elijah Wells proposes to fit up the new Library & to furnish a suitable Table & Stove for the Room, for the sum of Four Hundreds & Fifty Dollars. The amount of shelving, contained in alcoves of this description, is so great, that the sum proposed does not appear to be too high. The alcoves of the plan submitted would be capable of receiving twenty thousand volumes, a Library as [large as] the College will ever be likely to possess. The Principal would venture the suggestion that a Franklin Stove would cost no more than the one proposed, and set against the Chimney, after the manner of a Fire Place, would be more suitable to the Room, more convenient for the meetings of the Board.⁹

Enforcing their doctrines of "fewer temptations to idleness and dissipation," the board immediately ordered that the door would be locked at nine each evening, after which no student would be allowed out of the building.¹⁰ Furthermore, student not lodging in the boardinghouse would not be allowed in. Students were required to pay for the lighting and heating of their rooms and provide their own furniture with money provided by the professor in charge. Tilghman records the strict set of regulations established by the board, "evenings must be spent in study; and lest their serious pursuits be interfered with, they were all solemnly warned against promiscuous light reading. Boys of under fifteen had to be in bed by nine; older boys, at ten. And by 1841, the faculty had even forbidden them to leave the college grounds without special permission, as if the very atmosphere of Annapolis might endanger them."¹¹

In the 1850s, the board adopted an ambitious building campaign. Spurred by Principal Humphreys, the new buildings were to provide the promised housing for professors and faculty, and created living space for the college principal and vice-principal. Since its completion in 1837, the boardinghouse had never been filled to capacity with fifty out-of-town students; yet, additional dormitories were constructed in hopes enrollment would grow. The new buildings were symmetrically aligned on either side of McDowell Hall, set within a straight line referred to as "Yale Row." Unfortunately, on January 25, 1857, Humphreys died before the first of the three new buildings was completed. Three months after his death, at the dedication ceremony for the new 1857 dormitory (Pinkney Hall), the deceased principal was honored by having the previously unnamed 1837 boardinghouse officially christened Humphreys Hall.

⁸ Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory, "Humphreys Hall, St. John's College." Prepared by William D. Morgan, August 22, 1967.

⁹ Tilghman, p. 71.

¹⁰ Tilghman, p. 69.

¹¹ Tilghman, pp. 69-70.

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During the Civil War, when Union forces commandeered the campus of St. John's College, Humphreys Hall served as a barracks for exchanged prisoners who were brought to Annapolis to get medical attention, fresh clothing, food, and the combat pay due them. Additionally, by the middle part of the 19th century, a wood frame addition set upon a stone foundation was constructed on the northwest elevation of the building.¹² The one-story addition has been reputed to have served the Union army as a hospital and infirmary. It is denoted on the *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* from 1885 through 1897 as the laundry, and by 1903, was used as storage space.

By the 1880s, with the realignment of building use, Humphreys Hall was to be used as a library and museum. This alteration in use never materialized. However, by the latter part of the decade, the dormitory was considered too antiquated and in need of extensive repairs; as it had neither central steam heat nor indoor plumbing (the outhouses were located behind McDowell Hall). Modern heating and plumbing were introduced in the latter part of the 19th century, although bathrooms were not installed until 1905. The modern bathrooms, replete with "floor and trimmings of mosaic marble and every convenience," were located in the basement, replacing the dining hall.¹³

Humphreys Hall continued to serve as one of the primary dormitories for St. John's students well into the 20th century. In circa 1919, however, following the construction of additional housing and dining space, the historic hall became home to professors, rather than students. The *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps* record this change in 1921. By 1929, and at least until 1954, Humphreys Hall served as classroom and laboratory space, specifically devoted to the sciences. The building also became home to the music department, with a small theater constructed on the third floor.

The 1956-1958 construction of Francis Scott Key Memorial Hall and Mellon Hall to house the growing science and music departments allowed Humphreys Hall to return to its original use as housing. The restoration in use was preceded by extensive renovation of the building's interior. Under the direction of architect, C. Frederick Houston, Baltimore Contractors, Inc. completed razed the interior of the building, removing all walls and floors. In fact, only the floor joists were retained. When it re-opened in September 1959, the building could accommodate forty-five students, five less than it had originally. The college bookshop was moved to the basement. The one-story wood frame addition on the northwest elevation was subsequently removed. Additional alterations include the removal of the Gothic-like projecting portico on the southeast elevation and the decorative finials that original adorned the building along the roofline.

¹² *Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide*, edited by Marcia M. Miller and Orlando Ridout V, indicates the "addition" was thought to be original to the building as designed by Long, Jr. No documentation has been located to support this thesis. The addition is first noted circa 1870 on early photographs and lithographs of the campus.

¹³ Marcia M. Miller and Orlando Ridout V, editors, *Architecture in Annapolis: A Field Guide*. (Crownsville, MD: Maryland Historical Trust, 1998), p. 200.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870-1930)
Modern Period (1930-present)

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Town

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): EDUCATION/College

Known Design Source: Robert Cary Long, Jr. (Architect)
Elijah Wells (Builder)
C. Frederick Houston (1958 Interior Renovation)
Baltimore Contractors, Inc. (1958 Interior Renovation)

9. Major Bibliographical References

AA-676

"A Brief History: St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland," Pamphlet prepared by St. John's College.

Historic American Building Survey, "Humphrey Hall," Blue Worksheet, Prepared by Florence T. Dunbar, October 1964.

Murphy, Emily A. *A Complete and Generous Education: 300 Years of Liberal Arts, St. John's College, Annapolis.* Annapolis, MD, St. John's College Press, 1996.

Riley, Elihu S. *The Ancient City, A History of Annapolis in Maryland, 1649-1887.* Baltimore, MD: Clearfield Company, Inc., 1995.

Tilghman, Tench Francis. *The Early History of St. John's College.* Annapolis, MD: St. John's College Press, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area	<u>1 acre</u>	
Acreage surveyed	<u>33 acres</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Annapolis, MD</u>	Quadrangle scale <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Humphreys Hall is located on the campus of St. John's College, established at this site in 1784. The college is recorded on Tax Map 4-6, Parcel 458. It is bounded by College Avenue to the southeast, King George Street to the northeast, St. John Street to the southwest, and College Creek to the northwest.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Laura Trieschmann and Kim Williams, Architectural Historians	June 10, 2000
organization	E.H.T. Traceries, Inc.	
street & number	5420 Western Avenue	
city or town	Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

AA-676

HABS-BDDC

Form 3B

VII.15.1959

MD 274
BLUE

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Historian's Work Sheet for "Photo-data Books" (Part I)

Name of Structure Humphreys Hall

Address Maryland, Anne Arundel Co, Annapolis, St John's College Campus
State, county, township, locality, street address or location

Present Owner (give address) St John's College

Present Occupant Male students of St John's College

Present Use Mens' dormitory

Brief Statement of Significance (historical): Humphreys Hall was the first building constructed by St. John's, prompted by the necessity to consolidate the student body in one residence. It is considered an excellent example of the Gothic Revival Style and is interesting in its similarity to the Franklin Street Church in Baltimore, one of Long's later designs.
(PHYSICAL HISTORY) (All statements shall be documented)
Original and subsequent owners

St John's College

Date of Erection Cornerstone laid 1835, completed 1837 (See attached notes, Section I).

Architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. (See attached notes, Section II).

Builder, suppliers, etc. Building Committee: Ramsey Waters
Elijah Wells John Johnson
Nicholas Brewer, Jr.

Original plans, construction, etc.
Although no plans exist, an idea of the original layout and construction may be gained from a contemporary description. (See attached notes, Section III).
Notes on alterations and additions

Humphreys Hall, built as a dormitory, served this purpose for many years; later becoming the Science Building (it was at this stage considered too antiquated for use as a dormitory). When it was decided to return the building to its original use a complete renovation was required. Preliminary drawings were submitted by C. Frederick Houston and in 1958 the work was begun by Baltimore Contractors, Inc. The interior was razed, only the floor joists being retained. Built to house fifty students, plus a professor and his family; the Hall reopened in September 1959 with accommodation for forty-five students. The college bookshop in the basement is laid out to display the original center support of the building, a handsome foundation wall of salmon-colored brick pierced by a row of round-headed arches. (For exterior alterations, See attached notes, Section IV).

HISTORICAL EVENTS CONNECTED WITH STRUCTURE

Humphreys Hall was known simply as "the boarding house" until August, 1857 when J.G. Proud suggested its present name in honor of the late President Hector Humphreys, D.D., who had died the previous January. Dr. Humphreys had accomplished the most ambitious building program in the history of the college, and his puritanical administration had great influence on this small college. Constant entries in official records abound with his programs and present side-lights of nineteenth century academic problems.

During the Civil War ST John's College was preempted by the federal government, to be used by the Union Army, first as a parole camp for exchanged prisoners, and then as a military hospital. Humphreys Hall served at this period as a barracks, and later as part of the hospital.

Important old views Picture Files, Alumni Office, St John's College
(with location)

Forbes Collection of Photographs, Halls of Records: #190, #73, #479

Sources of information Building Files, Alumni and Registrar's Offices,
(with location) St John's College, Annapolis

Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors, Hall of Records, Annapolis
Spencer, E.P. & Howland, R.H., The Architecture of Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1953, Baltimore

~~likely sources not yet investigated~~
Tilghman, T.F., "An Early Victorian College, St John's," Maryland Historical Magazine, XXIV, June, 1949

Yorhees, P.R., "Historical Sketch of St John's," Commemoration of the One-Hundredth Anniversary of St John's College, St. John's Library

Florence J Dunbar
Date October, 1964

Research Staff, Historic Annapolis, Inc.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOCUMENTATION

Published references: Give author's full name, exact title from title page (underlined), publisher, place of publication, date, page references.

Manuscript references: Give location of manuscript and note if long-hand or typed. Cite "from," "to," date, etc.

Interviews: If information came from a personal interview, give complete name and address of informant.

CONTINUATIONS: Any of the above entries may be continued on additional sheets. Exact transcripts in quotes from pertinent documents are especially welcomed as appendices or otherwise.

HUMPHREYS HALL: Additional Notes**Section I:**

The following abstract is from the Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors of St John's College:

15 February, 1834: By resolution of the Board of Visitors and Governors Humphreys was appointed "to solicit subscriptions for the benefit of the college to be applied to the erection of buildings and other improvements."

Humphreys secured \$11,000. "The large building on the south side of McDowell Hall (since called Humphreys Hall) was then erected with these funds..." The cornerstone was laid in 1835, on 18 June.

16

Section II:

Robert Cary Long, Jr., was a Baltimore architect and a leading influence in the Gothic Revival movement in the area. He designed many public buildings in the Baltimore vicinity, the most notable being the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, which was completed in 1844. For further information the reader is referred to Howland and Spencer, pp. 97 - 101.

Section III:

Two partial descriptions of the building, written as it was being constructed, indicate the plans:

"...upwards of \$11,000 have been already subscribed, and a commodious edifice eighty feet by forty feet, three stories in height above the basement; has been commenced..."

"The foundation walls are built of stone, in the most substantial manner, furnishing one large and convenient public room, in the basement story, in addition to a kitchen, cellars, etc. of sufficient size for a

public establishment. The walls above the basement, are of brick, with partitions of the same material, and will contain twenty-five separate rooms, for the accommodation of fifty students, besides rooms for the family of a Professor of the College. The cornerstone was cut from a single block of granite, in the form of an Octagon, four feet across, corresponding with the form and dimensions of the angular buttresses."

(An Account of the Ceremony of Laying the Cornerstone of the New Building at St John's College, Jeremiah Hughes, Printer, 1835, Registrar's Office, St John's College.)

"...designed for one of the professors and the students; there are twenty-five private rooms in it, intended for the separate studies for members of the advanced classes, and two large dormitories for pupils in the preparatory branches..." (Riley, The Ancient City). N.B.: At this time the preparatory school students were housed with the college students proper.

Section IV:

Exterior alterations have been:

The gothic type wood vestibule at the front entrance has been removed. The gothic window frames and mouldings which were originally of wood have been replaced by skillfully reproduced cement facsimiles. The turret-like chimney pots at the top of the buttresses were removed because of the impracticality of upkeep.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

St. John's College, Humphreys Hall
College Avenue
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-274

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer 1964

MD-274-1 NORTHWEST ELEVATION

MD-274-2 SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

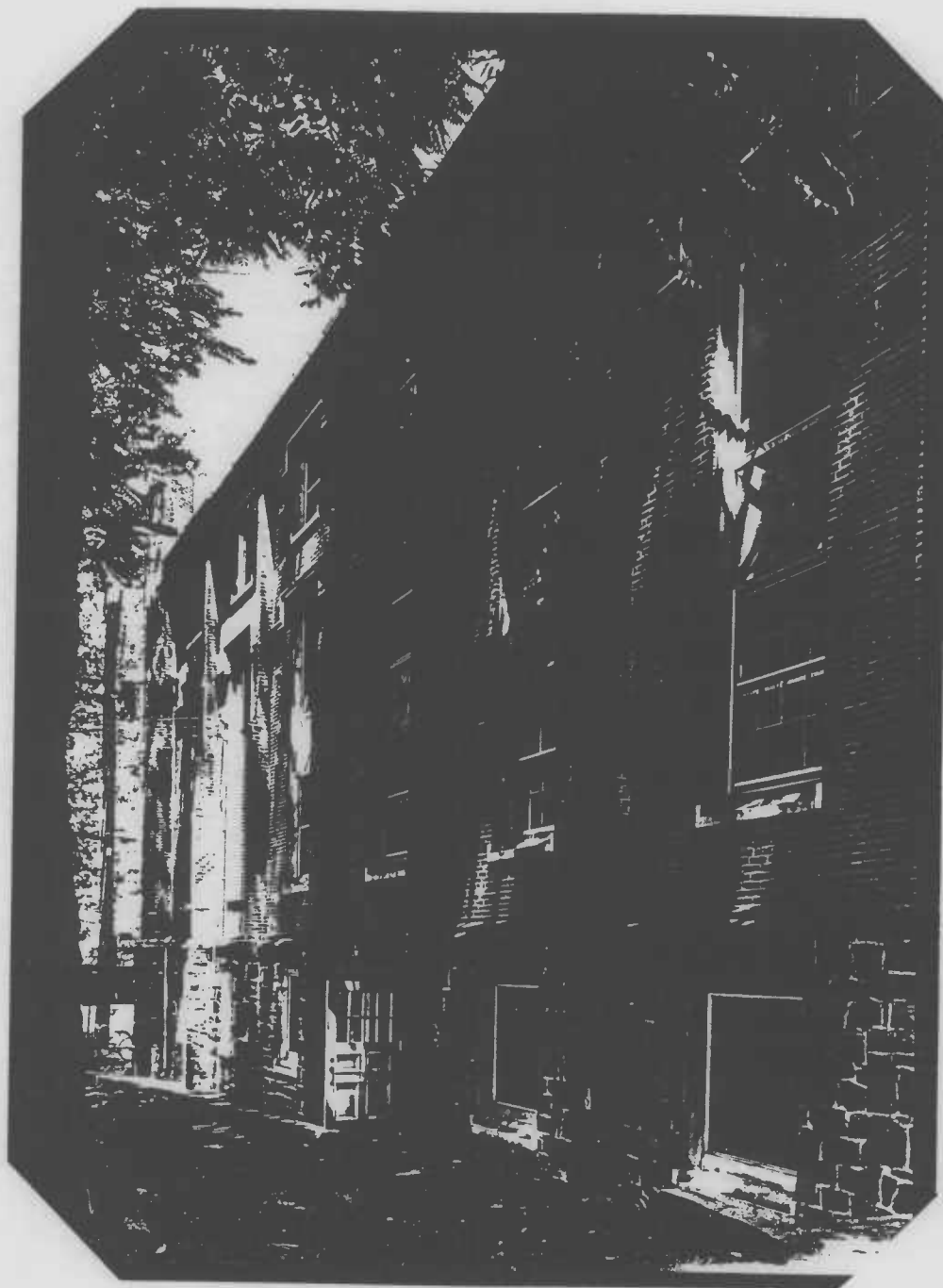
AA-676
HABS
MD.
2-ANN.
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AA-676

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

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2-ANNA
62-1

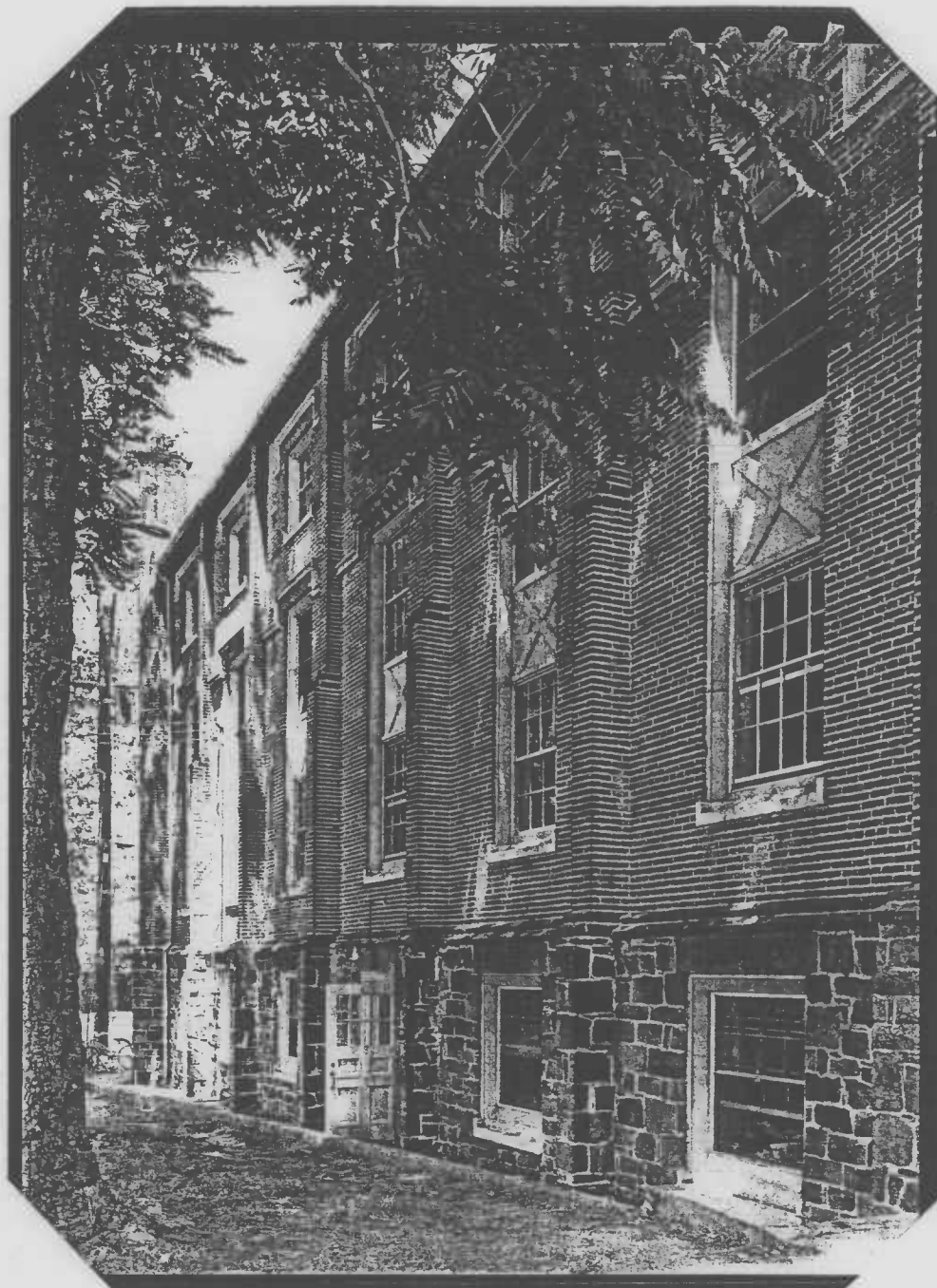


AA-676

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. *MD 272*

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2-ANNA
62-1

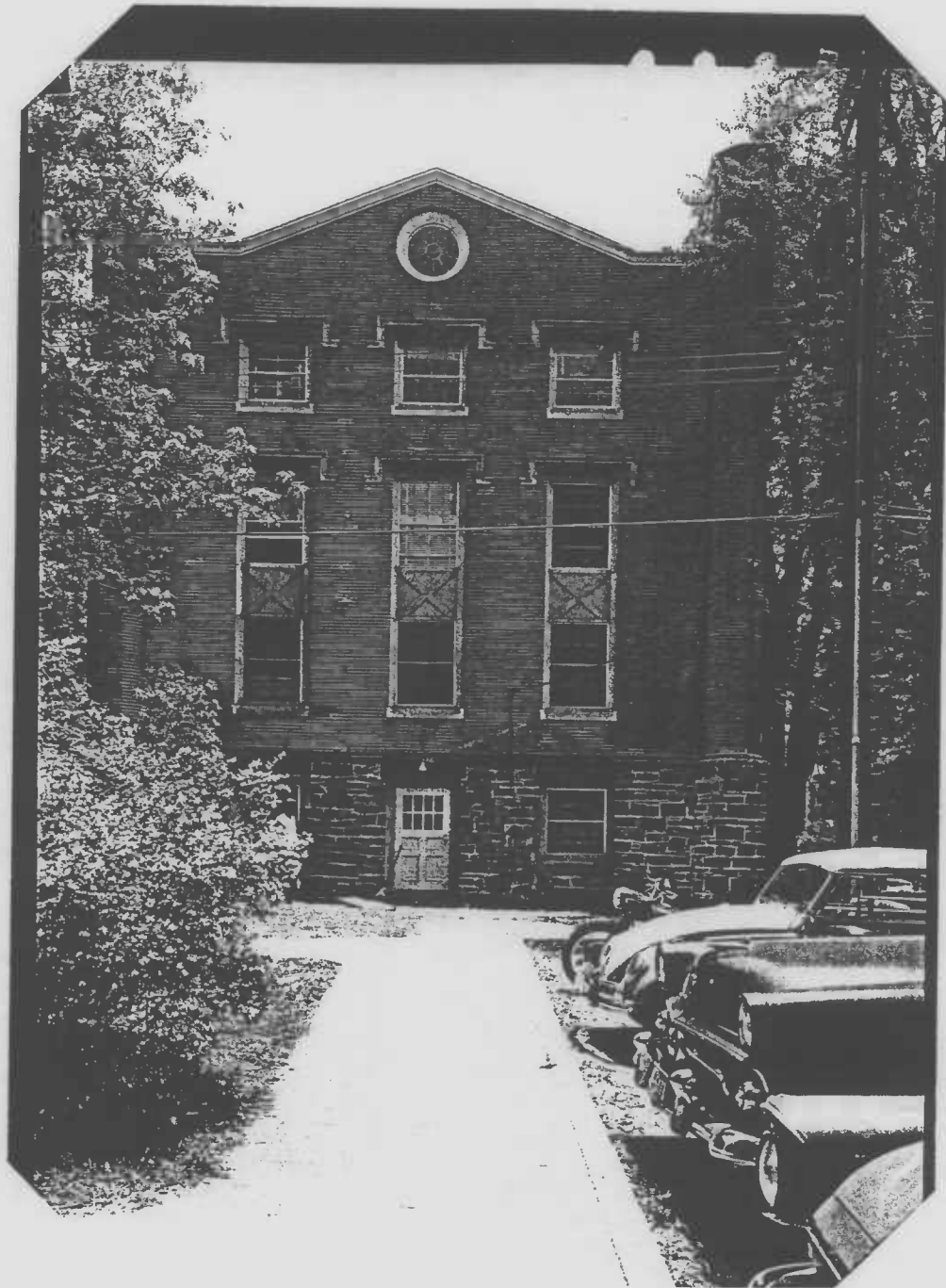


AA-676

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. MD-274-2

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
62-2



HABS AA-676
MD,
2-ANNA,
62-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY Anne Arundel	TOWN OR VICINITY Annapolis
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) St. John's College, Humphreys Hall		HABS NO. MD-274
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) College Avenue		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1835-37	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Robert Cary Long, Jr.	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Humphreys Hall was the first building constructed by St. John's College.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick, laid in American bond. Foundations are of granite.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) Three stories over a high basement, rectangular, about 35'x70'.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE 12"x16" buttresses which define each bay; octagonal brick turrets with molded brick caps at each corner; central blank arch in gable on southeast end.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1958 Complete renovation to return building to original use as dorm; C. Frederick Houston architect. Reopened as dorm in September 1959.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Dormitory		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Known simply as the "boarding House" until 1857 when J.G. Proud suggested its present name in honor of President Hector Humphreys, who had led the most ambitious building program in the College's history. During the Civil War, the dorm was used as a barracks by the Union Army, and later as administrative offices of St. Johns.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Id Views: Picture Files, Alumni Office, St. Johns College. Forbes Collection of Photographs, Hall of Records, Annapolis, #73,190,479. Biblio: Buildings Files, Alumni and Registrar's Offices, St. John's College (Cont'd p.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Eleni Silverman, Historian HABS, from reports by Florence Dunbar, Oct. 1964 and Harley J. McKee 8/13/64.		DATE 3/12/84

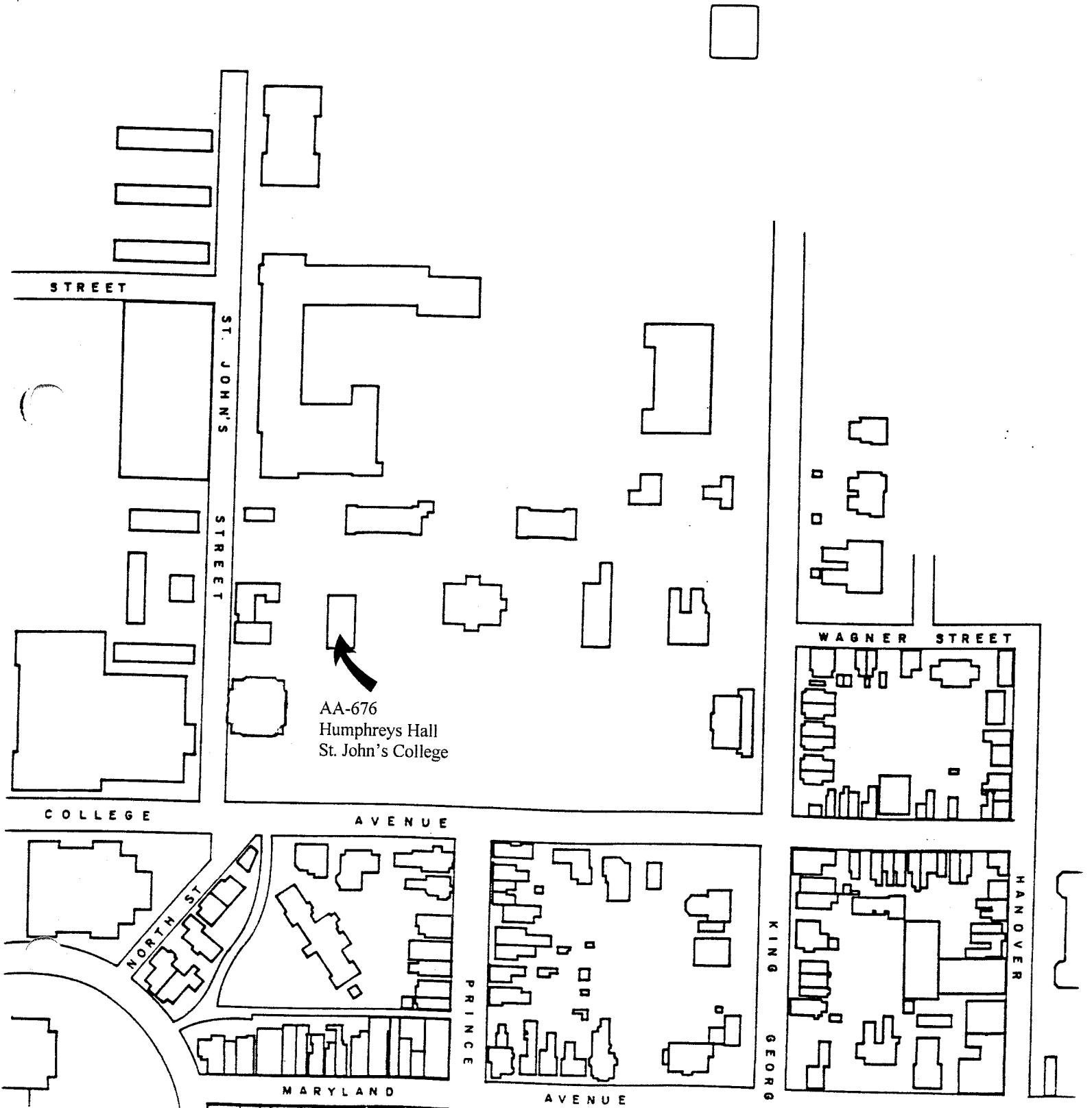
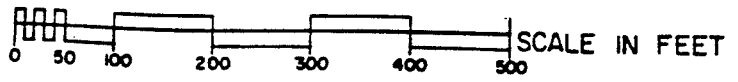
Sources of Information, Cont'd:

Minutes of the Board of Visitors and Governors, Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Spencer, E.P. and Howland, R.H. The Architecture of Baltimore. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1953.

Tilghman, T.F. "An Early Victorian College, St John's," Maryland Historical Magazine, XIV, June, 1949.

Voorhees, P.R. "Historical Sketch of St. John's," Commemoration of the One Hundredth Anniversary of St. John's College. St. John's College Library.





AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SE ELEVATION, LOOKING NW

1 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

NE ELEVATION, LOOKING WEST

2 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

NORTH CORNER, LOOKING SOUTH

3 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREY HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

NW ELEVATION, LOOKING SOUTH

4 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD
TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

WEST CORNER LOOKING EAST
5 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MD

TRACERIES

1/00

MD SHPO

SOUTH CORNER, LOOKING NORTH

6 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS
TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR STAIR LOOKING NE

7 OF 8



AA-676

HUMPHREYS HALL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS
TRACERIES

1/00

MARYLAND SHPO

FIRST FLOOR, HALL LOOKING SE

8 OF 8

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER:

AA 676

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:

Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

COUNTY: Anne Arundel

TOWN: Annapolis

LOCATION:

St. John's

COMMON NAME:

Humphrey Hall

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: SCH Map 31 Par 20

OWNER: St. John's College

ADDRESS: College Ave
Annapolis, MD 21401

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Yes (x) No () Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: HABS

Local () State (x) National ()

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: Dormitory

ORIGINAL USE: Dormitory

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent ()

Good (x)

Fair ()

Poor: ()

THEME:

STYLE: Castellated Gothic

DATE BUILT:

1835-1959

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone(x) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick(x) Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap () Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle () Brick Veneer(x) Stone Veneer () Asbestos Shingle () Bonding Pattern: Common Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood(x) Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal(x) Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches () Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys () Sheds () Ells () Wings () Other:

Roof Style: Gable () Hip(x) Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead () Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Bellcast () With Parapet () With False Front () Other:

Number of Stories: 3

Number of Bays: 3 x 2

Approximate Dimensions: 80 x 42

Entrance Location: Centered

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat(x) Zoning () Roads ()
Development () Deterioration ()
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive () Negative ()
Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

AA-676

Excellent castelated Gothic, with gable end walls incorporating a recessed pointed arched panel that has a two-story window with banded spandrel, pointed arch and drip mold above the flat arched window. Flanking windows are also two stories with the banded spandrel and excellent drip molds, repeated at the side elevations, the seven bays of which are defined by pilaster strips. The end wall has massive octagonal buttresses at the corners, extending above the roof line.

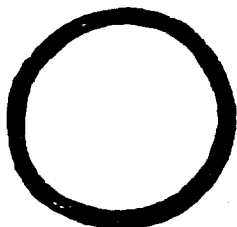
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Exceptional Gothic Revival by Robert Carey Long, very early for its style in this region. Critical to the townscape of the campus.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
Moderately Built Up(✓)Densely Built Up()
Residential()Commercial()
Agricultural()Industrial()
Roadside Strip Development()
Other:

RECORDED BY:

Russell Wright

ORGANIZATION:

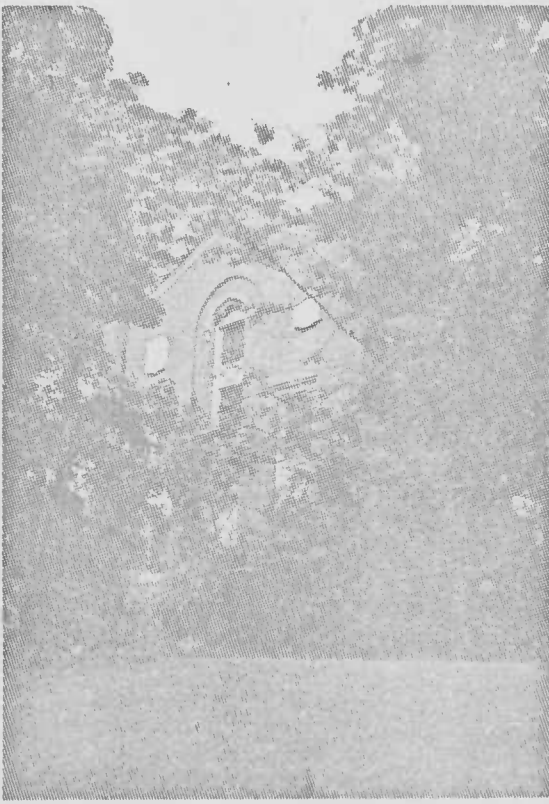
Historic Annapolis, Inc

DATE RECORDED:

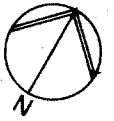
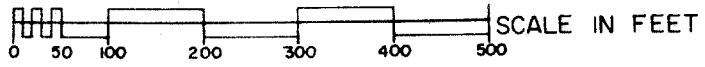
Aug. 1983

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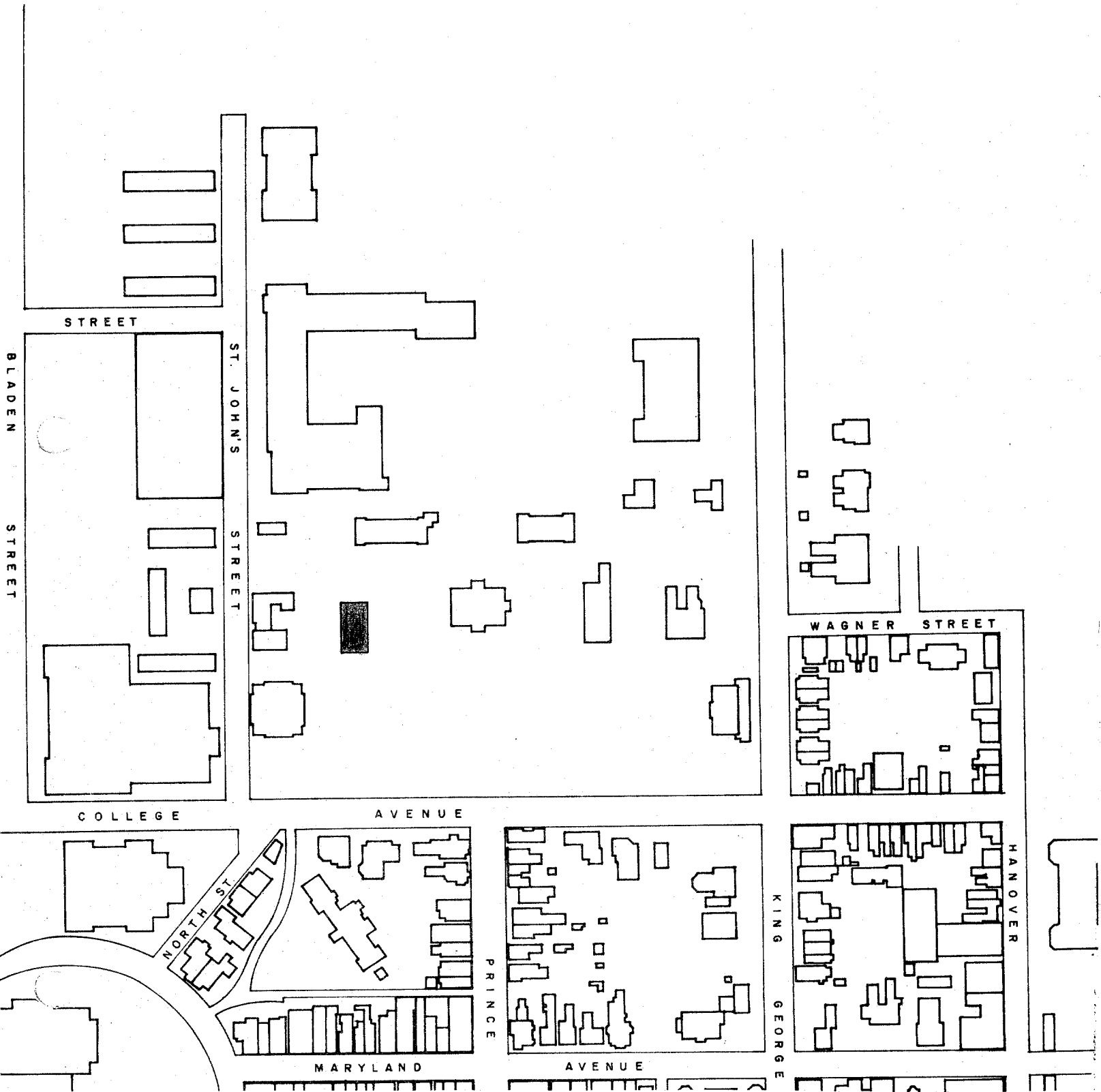
Form 10-445
(5/62)

1. STATE Annapolis, Maryland		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY	
COUNTY		INVENTORY	
TOWN	VICINITY	2. NAME Humphrey Hall	
STREET NO. St. John's Campus		DATE OR PERIOD 1835	
ORIGINAL OWNER St. John's College		STYLE Gothic Revival	
ORIGINAL USE Dormitory/ Class rooms		ARCHITECT Robert Carey Long	
PRESENT OWNER St. John's College		BUILDER	
PRESENT USE Dormitory/ Book store		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick			
NO. OF STORIES 3			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC Yes			
<p>By virtue of being one of the earliest collegiate Gothic buildings in America, Humphrey Hall is historically very important; it also belongs to the earliest period of Gothic Revival buildings in the country. Built on a masonry base there are vertical strips of windows between vertical brick buttresses. Southern Gothic is often militarily or castle oriented and Long's building has various shields, etc. for ornament. Built by the great Baltimore architect Robert Carey Long and at such an early date for the style, Humphrey Hall is indeed an important building, worthy of careful and permanent preservation.</p>			
		Interior Exterior	
		SOURCES: 1. M. Pei, H. A., Inc. 7. PHOTOGRAPH	
		NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER William D. Morgan Columbia University New York City	
		DATE OF RECORD August 22, 1967	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



AA 676
ANNAPOLIS HIST. DIST.





Humphrey Hall

St. John's

AA 676

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County

Russell Wright July, 1982

Maryland Historical Trust,

Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW



Humphrey Hall
St. John's

AA 676

Annapolis, Anne Arundel County
Russell Wright July, 1982
Maryland Historical Trust,
Annapolis, Maryland

SE Elevation/camera facing NW